

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 (Currently amended). A method for producing *Pasteuria* endospores *in vitro*, said method comprising introducing *Pasteuria* into a growth medium, growing the *Pasteuria* in said growth medium, and obtaining said endospores, wherein said growth medium comprises a microorganism having all the identifying characteristics of ATCC 2324.

2-7 (Canceled).

8 (Original). The method, according to claim 1, wherein said growth medium does not comprise an antibiotic.

9 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein a compound selected from the group consisting of manganese sulfate and lipids is added to induce the production of endospores.

10 (withdrawn). A method of protecting a plant from infection by nematodes wherein said method comprises applying to the plant, or to the plant's surroundings, a helper factor which promotes the colonization or proliferation of a bacterial nematode biocontrol agent.

11 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 10, wherein said substance is a helper factor which promotes the growth of *Pasteuria*.

12 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 11, wherein said helper factor is a microorganism, or is a chemical compound produced by a microorganism.

13 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 12, wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Enterobacter cloacae* and *Pantoea* spp.

14 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 12, wherein said microorganism has all of the identifying characteristics of ATCC 2324.

15 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 12, wherein said helper factor is a chemical compound produced by a microorganism.

16 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 15, wherein said chemical factor passes through a membrane having pores of about 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

17 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 10, wherein said helper factor is applied to the soil.

18 (withdrawn). The method, according to claim 10, wherein said plant is transformed to express said helper factor.

19 (withdrawn). A biologically pure culture of the isolate designated ATCC 2324.

20 (canceled).